Gender Mosaic's

Notes From The Underground

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Transgender News From The Nation's Capital Issue 4-97

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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The Presidents Corner
Canadian Labour Conference
A Conference For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Trade Unionists And Their Allies
October 15-17, 1997
SOLIDARITY AND PRIDE CONFERENCE

By Joanne Law

I had heard about this Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) conference from a dear friend several weeks before the actual event occurred in Ottawa, but the entry fee was $150.00. I called the Public Service Alliance Commission (PSAC) and the (CLC) for a visitors pass of some sort but there was no extra money in the kitty for that category and the conference was full, applications were being refused. Being unemployed and poor, the idea and dream of attending this three day workshop and discussion groups fell to the wayside. I wanted to be a supporter and Transgender Allie of a transsexual PSAC delegate from Victoria BC. A friend that I have known for many years. When she arrived in Ottawa I told her about not having the funds to support my being there but she insisted that I attend the opening speeches at the Citadel Hotel in down town Ottawa at 11:00 am. on October 15th.

There was over 325 delegates attending this conference from all over Canada. Every Province, territory, and first nation people, had a gay, lesbian, and bisexual representive and trade unionists, representing their union about G L B issues in the work place. There were union reps from universities, automobile plants, hotel and restaurant, public service providers, letter carriers, custom and immigration, airlines and many more independent delegates. My friend Gail was the only open Transgender delegate to attend and I was her non union, non member, non affiliated Transgender Allie. When all the speeches were finished I got up to the microphone on the floor and told the audience my reason for being their and to support Gail in her Transgender status, but because of my financial situation I could not pay the fee imposed to the delegates. I don't know what I said exactly, but I did relate to the audience about the Transgender individual in the work place and how we are being discriminated by others, just like the rest of the delegates at this convention. I explained about being very visible in the work place and it was our gender identity that we associated with, not our sexual preference. I told the delegates that I was proud to be Transgender, I was proud of the rainbow flag on the wall behind the stage, and I was proud to be among gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, and at the end of my speech I asked for their permission to stay and be an Allie to Gail for the duration of the conference. Anyway when I sat down beside Gail, I looked up to a standing ovation by the delegates. I must have said the right thing because there was a honorarium donated to me so that I could attend the three day event. During the lunch period break people came over to me and congratulated me for standing up to my rights and being visible and supporting Gail and just to say thank you for being there. I was overwhelmed at the positive response of the delegates

Gail and I worked each workshop over the three days relating to the delegates about the Transgender issue in the workplace and how we could be part of the process in developing language for the employer on Transgender people. Discussions developed around legal battles, homophobia, creating a safe place, negotiating for our rights, heterosexualism and how each topic affected our performance in the work environment. From 9:00 am until 5:00 pm in work shops and after the workshops in the lounge until it was time to go home. On Friday afternoon each group leader had to give three recommendations and their assessment to the CLC leaders about the action that should be taken at each union local and how it would be implemented. All of the team leaders stated that next year it will be called

A Conference For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Trade Unionists And Our Allies

During that conference 20 people came up to Gail "being a PSAC delegate", in confidence and told her that they were Transgender and hiding their gender identity just like we did before coming out of the closet. Gail and I were interviewed and photographed by several trade magazines and union representives about the Transgender issue. We became the centre of attraction and focal point of conversation. During the work shops delegates would say G L B and then look at me and add the "T". Sitting in the lounge of the hotel with Gail and a few new friends after the closing ceremonies, we related to each other and our friends about what we had just accomplished during the conference. I don't think any computer network, e-mail system, conference call communication or any independent education program could accomplish what Gail and I did in three days. Our Transgender issue is real and now in the workplace. We have made people think and in due process being Transgender in the workplace will become a safe environment. The language is now part of the bargaining tool. Look out world here we come!

J.B. SHOES

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The Presidents Corner - Contd.....

Well I did it! On August 18th I crossed the Canadian US border into the states as Joanne with out any problem. This is a land mark occasion for me because of what had happened to me several years ago. Some of my friends know the background story. I was petrified as it came my turn at the check point as I drove my car up to the border guard, put all went OK. One of the questions that they asked me is what I did for my vocation, my response was a natural reaction and told the border guard that I was a refrigeration, air conditioning and heating service technician. At that point she asked me to open my trunk to see the contents, my suitcase and a tool box and camera. She asked me why I had a tool box, I told her that it was always there just in case, she then waived me through the check point into the U S A, the rest of the holiday was just wonderful. During my holiday trip I went to the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York, where I met up with a few Transgender people that had gathered at the gay village areas in the towns that I stayed at, and gained new friends. I window shopped at the larger shopping malls only because of the exchange rate and the cost of clothes and food was almost the same in comparison as back home. Although I did get my own Victoria's Secret credit card with a $1000.00 limit. I went to museums, ate at fine restaurants and fast food sit down outlets, The whole trip was fantastic and I returned back home dressed en-femme 10 days later.

From the presidents diningroom in beautiful, downtown Hull Quebec
To all my friends who read "Notes From The Underground" Seasons Greetings. Thanks to the Editor Michelle Renee, to the executive Linda, Sophy, Sharon and Natalie and members of Gender Mosaic the best to you all. Joanne .....

Lynn and Nathalie had the opportunity of representing Gender Mosaic at the Ottawa's International Lesbian Week information fair at the McNabb Community Centre. This is the first year that our community has been invited to attend their events. Thanks Ladies.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thanksgiving is a special day of the year where we give thanks, and this year was extra special. This year some of the ladies of Gender Mosaic and members of the pride week committee helped serve turkey dinner for street people, members of the Transgender, gay, lesbian and bisexual community who shared space, to celebrate thanksgiving at the Jack Percell Community Centre on Elgin Street in Ottawa. The event was sponsored by the Pride Week Committee. All the food for the dinner was generously provided by grocery stores, bakeries, and spice stores in the Ottawa area and was prepared by volunteers of the pride week committee There was also a traditional, diabetic, allergy-free and vegetarian menu available. A suggested donation of $5.00 was collected and given to P-FLAG in Cornwall and Ottawa. When we started to organize this event we planed for about 100, may-be 150 guests maximum. 211 people attended the dinner. We ran out of pies, cakes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, rice, soup, the only food left was scraps of turkey for the volunteers.
This was our first attempt by the pride committee at a Thanksgiving dinner, and by the response of the community this will be an annual event Thanks to Michelle from Cornwall Ontario, Nathalie from Buckingham Quebec, and Maryanne from Gatineau Quebec for taking time from your busy schedule to help on October 13th for this worthy cause.

Linda. and I lectured at Algonquin college again this fall about Transgender issues in the community. Linda has the write up on the event

That's about it for this issue. I want to wish everybody a warm and happy Christmas and New Year. 1998.

DID YOU KNOW?

Imagine how ecstatic Queen Victoria must have felt when she received her first pair of silk stockings in 1589. We know very little about how they actually looked on her legs, but we do know they must have felt quite fabulous. Since then, stockings and later, pantyhose have aroused the passions of women (and men) everywhere.
Until the twentieth century, a lady's legs may have been talked about, but were never seen. Men's legs, however, were in full view.
On May 15, 1940 when the first nylons went on sale at stores throughout the country, four million pairs sold out in four days. Women everywhere were wildly enthusiastic about the new miracle fibre .But everything came to an unfortunate halt with the outbreak of World War II, when nylon production was commandeered for the war effort. Women resorted to using makeup to decorate their legs, like drawing faux seams up the back of their legs with an eyebrow pencil
World War II ended in 1945, but the nylon wars were just beginning! Peace slowly brought nylons back into stores, but not fast enough. In New York, Macy's sold out of it's entire stock of 50,000 pairs of nylons in six hours, leaving a long line of unhappy, bare legged women. Meanwhile, in Pittsburgh a mob of 40,000 women stood all night in a torrential rain storm to buy nylons from a tiny hosiery shop. By 1948, production of nylon stockings returned to normal.
Hosiery took another giant step ahead with the development of spandex in 1959.

Victoria

From The Editors Desk

With Christmas just around the corner and another year soon to coming to a close, it gives us a little time to reflect on the accomplishments of the year. Certainly one of the highlights of the year, for me at least, was Gender Mosaic being invited to speak at the G.L.B.T. orientation at Carleton University in September. Joanne, Lynn, Nathalie and I were scheduled to provide two sessions of two hours each. Joanne opened each session with a bit of a background about herself and how Gender Mosaic began. I followed, with an introduction about what Transgender meant, and the categories within the Transgender spectrum. Lynn and Nathalie gave their own perspectives about transsexuals and their own personal thoughts and feelings.

Each session ran overtime with the amount of very insightful questions. What pleased me greatly, was the fact that Transgender had finally been added to the former G.L.B community. The Carleton University GLBT Center also donated a large sum of money to Gender Mosaic, which was greatly appreciated. We have been asked to return for another session at a later date. Myself, as with the others would certainly entertain a return engagement.

Nathalie, Lynn, Michelle, Joanne
GLBT Orienation Carleton University

On Saturday November 22nd it was a pleasure to be present to see Joanne be presented with the "Spirit Award" from ALGBO (Association of Lesbian, Gays and Bisexuals of Ottawa), at the Coral Reef Club. The award was presented to Joanne for her community spirit in which she is actively involved in the Bias Crime Unit and various other committees, not to mention her effort in being present for the Pride Week proclamation, in which Transgender was finally added. It is the efforts of those such as Joanne, who will see that Transgender does find it's rightful place within the community.

There has not been much mention lately, but the Significant Other Support Group has been meeting on a regular basis. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. To date, Julee has been kind enough to be the hostess for the meetings. There have been a number of issues and topics that have been discussed, such as the Transgender spectrum, how wives cope differently, what wives see as acceptable and what makes them angry. How to reach compromises and other very useful topics.

There is still room for other wives, even if you don't have a problem, your input is always required. Other wives who have just been told, need your support and ideas. Failing all else, wives all have something in common, a partner who is Transgendered. This fact alone makes all the wives very unique. Ideas and thoughts can't be shared with just anyone.

More information can had by calling Julee at 731-8058 or Nancy at 746-8905.

Nancy and I are continuing our outreach to other couples, mostly, those couple were the wife has very recently found out and have a number of issues that they need help with. To that end, we have become the first Canadian members of "The Couples Network" The Couples Network originated as a resource at Transgender Forum for couples who needed a venue of support, which was unique as the problems and difficulties that arose. For those members who have not yet told their spouse or are thinking of it, just remember that there is no need for your spouse or you to go it alone. If you require our assistance or think that we may be able to help you, please don't hesitate to contact us either directly or through Joanne

In our articles this month, there are a few that I found to be quite interesting, as each had a unique perspective. I hope that you will find them as enlightening as I did.

As a means of sharing information, I have established a growing network of Transgender Editors, called the International Association of Transgender Editors. There are many issues and ideas that go on around the world that we never hear about. Interaction with other editors can help in spreading the information from around the world. Local issue are important as the issues and achievements of groups and organizations world wide. Very often, if you have a computer and Internet access you may find some of it. Without a computer you are missing all of it. So in coming issues, you may find interesting articles from as far away as New Zealand, where the wife of a Transsexual started a wives support group and is also the editor of the groups newsletter.

Gender Mosaic will be celebrating it's 10th Anniversary next year on May 8th, 9th and 10th (anticipated) if you have ideas, get them to Joanne the first part of January, as the planning will be moving ahead rather quickly. The agenda should be available in the February newsletter. If you have friends in Northern Ontario or elsewhere in the Province or the States let them know it is coming. We would like to see all members, past members, and those without a support group be present for this great occasion.

To all the readers and advertisers of NFTU I wish you all

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

To: nftu@canadamail.com

Dear Michelle Renee,

I had hoped that Erica's book might be of some encouragement to some of your members. Erica Rutherford is now in her seventies. She lives in Prince Edward Island where she continues her career as a painter. This coming spring she will have a show of her most recent work at the Confederation Center Gallery which is a national gallery. Her work was chosen to represent P.E.I when stamps using the work of Canadian artists were printed a few years ago. She was honoured last year for her contrbution to the history of black film by the Smithsonian Institute in the U.S. In the 1940's while living as Eric Rutherford in South Africa she produced and directed the first film in that country to use an all black cast and black crew members. The film is called African Jim. She has illustrated several children's books some of which are published by tundra press here in Canada. Erica struggled with her gender all of her life like many Transgendered people she recalls feeling that something was not right even in childhood. Prehaps this restlessness in her soul led her to a roaming sort of life, born in 1923 in Scotland she has
lived in Europe, Africa and North America. It was in the seventies while she was living in the midwest where she taught fine art at Columbia University in Missouria that she came to the point of surgically changing her gender. She came to Toronto and to the Clark institute for part of her treatment. She was also showing at that time at the Pollack Gallery run by the incomparble Jack Pollack who was very supportive of her. I can not paraphrase Erica's entire life story. She has done an excellent job in her book Nine Lives. I would be happy to mail you a copy if you have some sort of reference library for your members. Please let me know, thank you
Susana Rutherford

Editors Note: I have written back to Susana Rutherford telling her of Gender Mosaic's extensive library, so a copy of her fathers book will be forthcoming.

THE TRANSGENDERED WOMAN
by
Roberta Angela Dee

I am a woman. All I ask is to be given the respect that all women deserve. My name is Roberta Angela Dee. I am an African American Transgendered woman.

The word *Transgendered* means that I was born anatomically male but psychologically and emotionally female. I do not use the word *transsexual* because most people assume that all transsexuals undergo or be in the process of undergoing a sex change operation. I have not had a sex change operation, nor do I plan to have one performed. The next question in most people's mind is: If you have decided to live as a woman, why not go *all the way* and have the operation? The reason is simply because I have never believed that gender can be a function of surgery, nor that one's gender can be altered through surgery. I am a woman because of what I feel in my mind, heart and soul -- not because of my anatomy.

Christine Jorgenson described it best when she said she was "... a woman in a man's body." Since that time, talk show hosts have sensationalized Transsexualism to mean surgery. Media creates many myths and misconceptions. Suffice it to say that as Media stereotypes women, Media also stereotypes transsexuals. The reality is that there are thousands of transsexuals -- both male-to-female and female-to-male who for a variety of reasons live their lives according to their anatomical sex. It is a very unhappy situation. In effect society pressures an individual who is female to live as a husband and often as a father so as not to conflict with the social, legal and medical definitions of gender. Can you imagine how horrible life might be if forced to pretend to be a man while deep inside feeling as a woman?

FEMINISM AND NOW

Most women have experienced some form of gender-based discrimination. Women of color experience discrimination based on gender and also ethnicity. As an African American Transgendered woman, I experience discrimination as a result of race, gender and because I am Transgendered. I am a feminist and could be a member of the National Organization for Women (NOW). I choose not to belong to NOW because the organization only addresses gender issues. For women of color, their approach is not effective enough. And for Transgendered women, their approach is totally ineffective.

LEGAL, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Most Americans accept their right to the pursuit of happiness for granted. This is difficult for most women of color who must still address racial discrimination in addition to gender-based discrimination. For the Transgendered individual there are incredible barriers to their pursuit of happiness.

Legal:

The legal system defines a transsexual as an individual who undergoes sex reassignment surgery (SRS), more commonly referred to as a sex change operation. Unless the operation is performed, an individual's gender continues to be based on their anatomy -- not on how they feel about themselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Therefore, legally, I am a man in spite of my having obvious breasts and absolutely no ability to perform as a male. Legally, a Transgendered woman is no different than the heterosexual male who cross dresses. In reality, the differences are as significant as night and day.

Medical:

The medical system, as expressed in the Diagnostic of Statistical Medical Disorders, suggests that I suffer from a gender dysfunction, in spite of the fact that I am totally comfortable and able to function as a woman. Again, the medical community equates gender with anatomy in some circles while acknowledging that sex and gender are different in others. Society:

Society, swayed by the biology of the Middle Ages, the legal system, the medical system, and television talk shows, and various interpretations of religious scripture again suggests that gender and sex is the same. On all fronts, a Transgendered woman is denied her right to be a woman, to live and love as a woman, and to receive the same legal protection, and the same
quality of medical care as any other woman for those attributes that a Transgendered woman shares with all women.

Contd.....

NE . O . . NG SOLUTIONS

I have always believed that any attempt to deny any woman her inalienable rights is diminishing to all women. Therefore, as a feminist it is imperative that I struggle to develop the rights of all women regardless of their race, religion, sexual preference or anatomy.

The purpose of this article is to solicit dialogue and support from various individuals and organizations. Please help to inform others as to the importance of this cause.

Transgendered women need to

1) increase the awareness of the medical community as to those similarities we share with all women;
2) increase the sensitivity of the police as their responsibilities pertain to rape, sex workers and domestic violence;
3) increase the support of politicians to legislate changes in the way women are defined and defended;
4) increase the accountability of psychologist and psychiatrists to better understand the role of gender in society;
5) increase ethnic diversity among gender support groups; and
6) increase the amount of respect given to all women.

I am one individual. I need to connect with women who understand how to solicit political support so that the laws might be reexamined and hopefully changed.

Comments can be addressed to RADANGLE@aol.com or to visit my website site go to::
http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5725/
Thank you

Editors Note: The above article was reprinted with the express consent of the Author, Roberta Angela Dee 12/3/97

Did You Know?

In recent years, sexual harassment and inappropriate gender-related comments and conduct have been recognized as serious human rights issues in our society. While we are becoming more knowledgeable about and committed to addressing these issues, there are still significant information gaps among the public at large, about the scope of these issues and our legal obligations as a society to deal with them effectively.

There are for instance, many people who are not aware of the full range of rights to work and live in an environment free from sexual harassment and inappropriate gender-related comments and conduct. At the same time, there are employers, and service providers, who may not understand that they can be legally liable for failing to take decisive measures in order to prevent or prohibit sexual harassment and other forms of unequal treatment in their workplaces.

Discrimination based on sex includes what is commonly referred to as sexual harassment or inappropriate comments and actions of a sexual nature. Harassment and discrimination based on sex are not, however always of a sexual nature. Sex discrimination may also include harassing comments or jestures.

Editors Note: If you feel that you are being harassed in any way and are not sure just how to deal with it, you can contact Michelle Renee, Margo or Joanne in confidence and we will be able to advice you of what recourse, legal action, and resources we have available to assist you. These are issues that you no longer have to tolerate, under any circumstances.

Humour & Such

I've Learned.....
I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. Age 6
I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night". Age 7
I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. Age 9
I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up. Age 12
I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 13
I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict. with me. Age 15
I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. Age 24
I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. Age 25
I've learned that wherever I go, the worlds worst drivers have followed me there. Age 29
I've learned...that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. Age 39
I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. Age 41
I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little card. Age 44
I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his need to cast blame on others. Age 45
I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. Age 46
I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. Age 49
I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 50
I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 52
I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 53
I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58
I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve your marriage. Age 61
I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. Age 62
I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64
I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65
I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66
I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72
I've learned that it pays to believe in miracles, and to tell the truth, I've seen several. Age 73
I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 82
I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch-holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Age 85
I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 92

The Gold Box

Some time ago a friend of mine punished his three year old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box, to put it under the Christmas tree.
Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier over-reaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty.
He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside of it?"
The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh daddy, it's not empty, I blew kisses into the box. All for you daddy."
The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl and again begged for her forgiveness.
My friend told me that he kept that gold box by his bed for years. When ever he became discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.
In a very real sense, each of us as parents has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children. No more precious possession could anyone hold.

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ARTICLES

This Article is from Micheline Montreuil our member from Montreal

Coronation 1997 in Toronto

To understand this text, you must know that there is a kind of non-profit organization named the Imperial Court System. There are more than 70 Imperial Courts or chapters in North America, more than 65 in U.S.A. and 8 in Canada in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, London, Hamilton, St-Catherines and Toronto,. Micheline is a member of the Imperial Court of Toronto where she is The Royal Ambassador to la Belle Province de Quebec, Princess of Gemini and Daughter of the Dragon, Her Grace, Grand Duchess Micheline Montreuil. Each Imperial Court organizes some events to raise funds for many different charitable organizations that take care of people with aids, house for beaten women, crippled children, civil rights, Metropolitan Community Church, St Vincent de Paul homeless center and so on. Each Court chooses in their own city what are the organizations that must be supported by the Court.

Each year, each Imperial Court elects a new emperor and a new empress at an event called a Coronation. The elected monarchs guide the court through its fund-raising efforts throughout their reign. The Court hosts many different types of events and fund-raisers such as shows, contests and tournaments. Any type of social event that can raise money for a good cause can be used as an Imperial Court event. The Court is open to anyone and everyone. The members represent every aspect of our society, including all ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations. The Court is to serve the community where it is established in the tradition of compassion, community and caring.

All members of the Court usually start a reign with the title of Lord or Lady and gain higher titles throughout the year depending on how involved they get in various Court events and fund-raisers. At the end of the reign, a few outstanding Court members are bestowed lifetime titles that are theirs forever and are known as permanent members of the Imperial Court family. However, all other members will loose their titles at the end of the year and the new monarchs will give them a new title if they earn it.

A unique opportunity for a Court member like Micheline is to be a representative of her own Court at a Coronation in other Court. By example, during her trip, Micheline has been the representative of The Imperial Court Of Toronto at the Coronation of the Imperial Court of San Diego County and at the Coronation of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth - Arlington.

An Imperial Court is a like some other non-profit organizations like the Knights of Columbus. Like them, we have a system of titles that recognizes the involvement of members and we wear some costumes accordingly to our titles. Now, you will understand what Micheline have done at the Imperial Court of Toronto.

Well, this year the ceremonies of the Coronation 1997 in Toronto have begun on Sunday, October 5, 1997, by a show at the Planet Trax V. After that, two other events have taken place on Tuesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 8 to prepare people for the big events to follow.

Thursday, October 9. This is the beginning of the big events with the State Dinner that is a kind of formal dinner where every one who wishes to meet in a quiet place all other members of the Court System well dressed. It is really a good opportunity to meet old friends and to meet new friends. The State Dinner is followed by the In-Town Show where the performers come only from the area of Toronto. You must remember that all the members of the out of town Courts are not arrived on Thursday; usually, they arrive on Friday or Saturday, for the weekend. This is always a lovely show of singing and dancing with a lot of feathers.

Friday, October 10. This is the day of the Out of Town Show and it is certainly one of the most entertaining evening. The people of the out of town Courts perform with glamour and glitter. In some Courts, the show stops at 22h00 because the Court organize a kind of visit of the other bars in the area but in Toronto the show goes on as long as there are performers and this year, the show goes up to 2h00. It was a long show but a fine and exciting show. I love this show and the performers have a real opportunity to show what they are able to do. When I arrived in Toronto Friday evening very late, I took my place as the chauffeur and the maid of the Emperor to help him to be every where in time and well dressed. It was a busy job but I have a lot of fun to do it.

Saturday, October 11. During the day, it was the run for grabbing some stuff for the Coronation and to buy some gifts for the Emperor and the Empress. As the Coronation was hold at the Colony Hotel, nearby the Eaton Center, you may guess that I have shopped at the Eaton Center to do that. Finally, I go back to the hotel at 17h00 with my hands full of stuff for dressing myself with my princess dress for the Coronation that will begin at 19h00. The Coronation was a long show up to 2h00 with a special theme Galaxy - An Odyssey of Futuristic Pageantry. Many performances were done in accordance with this theme and we have had some Klingons, Ferengis, Borgs and some other creatures from strange planets. Other people worn futuristic and spatial costumes. Finally, at the end of the show, they announced the new monarchs : The Empress XI will be Rose DuBarry De Lee but there will not have an Emperor XI. However, there will be a ½Regent to the Empress XI¶ and the Regent will be Gary Farr, Emperor X of Toronto. During the show, I have helped the Emperor to change his costumes. I have also met Pamela, Dorothy and some other members of Xpressions. I have also met many people that I have encountered during my trip of the Summer 1997 in U.S.A.

PAGE SEVEN.....

After the show and before reaching my room, I have taken some drinks with Savannah and other members of the Court in her room. Savannah is a very lovely lady and each year, I have always a lot of fun to meet her and to chat with her.
Sunday, October 12. We must wake up because we must go to the Victory Brunch at noon at the Planet Trax V. This brunch is a celebration for the victory of the new monarchs but it is in same time the occasion for the stepping down monarchs to give some awards to some members of the Court. This year, Micheline is become a member of the Order of the Polar Bear for outstanding personal dedication to the cause. She has also received an award as a Personage Speciale
During the evening, it was the time for the Tough Drag contest, a show done by men who never dress themselves as a woman. At my own point of view, it was certainly the best show during this week. Not only the costumes were beautiful or eccentric but also, when you meet lovely women with long beards, big moustaches, too much hairs on the arms or the legs, colorful wigs and dresses, you have no other choice than to laugh. The performers were excellent and I have laughed enough; it was incredible.
Monday, October 13. We have had a meeting of the Canadian Courts and the Courts of the North-East of the U.S.A. and we have discussed about the creation of an Imperial Court of Canada and the establishment of a Principality in Quebec city. Many people have expressed some interesting points of view about the creation of an Imperial Court of Canada as a mean to increase the links between Canadian Courts.
During the evening, it was the time for a show for the benefit of the Empress of Empresses Empress Jose - the Widow Norton. I have performed in this show and I have sung four songs in a very sexy black dress. The audience was very good and it was a very pleasant evening.
This was the Coronation 1997 in Toronto
Micheline :-)
The End

Editors Note: I have been asked if I would reprint the poem that is on my web page as there was a thought that it was inspiring to anyone with an alternative lifestyle. So here it is:
Michelle Renee

Please Understand Me

If you do not want what I want, please try not to tell me that my want is wrong.
Or if I believe other than you, at least pause before you correct my view.
Or if my emotion is less than yours, or more, given the same circumstances, try not to ask me to feel more strongly or weakly.
Or yet if I act, or fail to act, in the manner of your design for action, let me be.
I do not, for the moment at least, ask you to understand me. That will come only when you are willing to give up changing me into a copy of you.
I may be your spouse, your parent, your offspring, your friend, or your colleague. If you will allow me any of my own wants, or emotions, or beliefs, or actions, then you open yourself, so that some day these ways of mine might not seem so wrong and finally appear right to you as right - for me. To put up with me is the first step to understanding me. Not that you embrace my ways as right for you, but that you are no longer irritated or disappointed with me for my seeming waywardness.
And in understanding me you might come to prize my differences from you, and far from seeking to change me, preserve and even nurture those differences

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Tips & Tricks

Well in this issue rather than do the usual makeup tips, I thought the first thing to consider was the time of the year. Christmas right? And what happens every year with office parties, visiting friends and family etc, a little too much eggnog, a few pieces of fruitcake, and before you know it, inches on the waste line, reinforced love handles. So before you put in on, let me tell you what it takes to get it off. The scale below is based on an average persons height and a weight of 175 lbs or 79.3 Kg to you metric gurus. It is also based on 30 minutes of each activity.

Dancing fast - disco style burns 315 calories or a 2 ounce candy bar
Housework - vacuuming etc. burns 147 calories or 4 fried onion rings
Shopping for skirts etc.- 97 calories or 2 small chocolate chip cookies
Heavy Duty Snow Shoveling- 612 calories or a turkey club on white
Skating - 202 calories or 1 cinnamon raison bagel
Walking medium stride - 183 calories or 1 yeast raised donut

Just Remember Ladies.....From the lips....straight to the hips

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With so many new members just emerging from the "closet" I thought an article about one of the most basic tricks to passing should be discussed. So for you "newbies" and those who haven't thought about this for awhile, this article is for you. It is called;

Walk The Walk

One of the things I was always worried about was being "read" while out in public. We all know about attitude which is about 90% of the battle and of course makeup, but one of the easiest tricks to reducing the "manliness" the most effectively is the manner in which you walk. Sitting at any food court in a mall you will be able to observe just how women generally walk. Of course you will notice that some women do walk like truckers, but as a rule this procedure fits the bill to most.

Much of the necessary fluidity and proper posture can be obtained with simply putting on a pair of reasonably sized 2 to 2 ½ inche heels. And starting to learn to walk in them. The 4 and 5 inch stiletto heels albeit very sexy looking don't work for street or shopping wear. A number of the balance tricks you need to simply walk upright in a pair of heels lend themselves fantastically to getting the proper look of walking

In heels, placing the weight on the balls of the feet enhance balance, control and posture. It is still possible (and in most cases necessary) to set the heel down first, in a manner "rolling the shoe", however, the weight should still not be transferred completely to that foot until the ball is planted.

Another important matter to keep in mind is that men take big hefty steps, large movements of the arms swinging back and forth. Perhaps a lot of up and down bobbing in the process too. Try to walk - even your masculine walk - with your head remaining at the same level, reduce arm swinging. This can be done in your day to day life without really effecting your appearance adversely. Lastly, is the manner in which the feet are placed on the ground. After considerable girl watch, at least those with elegance and feminity, I discovered that women almost cross their feet as they walk - making a straight line with their steps. Men, often widely stagger their steps, lending to the common bob and weave. Practice does make perfect!

Shorter steps - in a line - toes pointed slightly out - weight mostly on 'balls' of the feet

Longer paces - feet spread further apart - toes pretty much straight ahead - rolling feet heel->toe